



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Crops	Character of Storm
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CONNECTICUT, Northeast

CTZ002>004

Hartford - Tolland - Windham

24 0000EST
25 1830EST

0 0

Strong Winds

Rain, strong winds, and 2 to 3 inches of snow occurred across parts of northern Connecticut as a strong low pressure area passed to the southeast of Cape Cod. Wind gusts to 40 to 45 mph from the northeast occurred with this storm system on February 24th. In the wake of the storm system, strong northwest winds were reported on February 25th. A tree, pole, and wires were reported down at mid-afternoon in Windsor. A peak wind gust to 53 mph was reported by a spotter in Bristol during the early evening. A transformer was dislodged from a pole.

MASSACHUSETTS, Central and East

MAZ019>024

Eastern Plymouth - Southern Bristol - Southern Plymouth - Barnstable - Dukes - Nantucket

04 2300EST
05 1800EST

0 0

Strong Winds

A strong storm system passing offshore to the southeast of Cape Cod caused strong northeast winds over coastal sections of Plymouth County and over Cape Cod and the Islands. In addition, large breaking waves resulted in some minor coastal flooding and beach erosion along exposed shores. Astronomical tides were not unusually high, preventing any serious effects of flooding. The storm produced more than 2 inches of precipitation at Nantucket but amounts tapered off rapidly to only a third of an inch in northern Plymouth County, just south of Boston. Some peak wind gusts included: Nantucket, 53 mph; Falmouth, 52 mph; Martha's Vineyard and Plymouth, 48 mph; Provincetown, 47 mph; New Bedford, 46 mph; Fairhaven, 44 mph; and Boston, 39 mph.

MAZ005>007-013>016-
018>022

Western Middlesex - Western Essex - Eastern Essex - Western Norfolk - Southeast Middlesex - Suffolk - Eastern Norfolk -
Western Plymouth - Eastern Plymouth - Southern Bristol - Southern Plymouth - Barnstable

18 0000EST
1500EST

0 0

Heavy Rain

MAZ007-013>024

Eastern Essex - Western Norfolk - Southeast Middlesex - Suffolk - Eastern Norfolk - Northern Bristol - Western Plymouth -
Eastern Plymouth - Southern Bristol - Southern Plymouth - Barnstable - Dukes - Nantucket

18 0000EST
1200EST

0 0

Strong Winds

Bristol County

Westport

18 0600EST

0 0

Thunderstorm Wind (G56)

Bristol County

Collins Corner

18 0825EST

0 0

Flood

Heavy rainfall, strong winds, and thunderstorms occurred over eastern Massachusetts as a strong low pressure system tracked northeastward from the Mid Atlantic coast to a position southeast of Cape Cod. A severe thunderstorm was reported in Bristol County at 6:00 AM, February 18th, where an estimated peak wind gust of 65 mph occurred. A commuter plane flying from Maine to Boston was struck by lightning but landed safely at Boston with no significant damage and no injuries. Rainfall totals of 2 to 3.5 inches were commonly reported over the southeastern portion of the state, the western part of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and along the coast northeast of Boston. Most of this heavy rainfall occurred during a 12-hour period. In northern Plymouth County, a total of 3.17 inches at Hull and 3.00 inches at Hingham set new records for a maximum one-day rainfall for the month of February. Some other totals included: West Wareham, 3.7 inches; Gloucester, 3.37 inches; Plymouth, 3.15 inches; Acushnet, 3.13 inches; New Bedford, 2.77 inches; Norton, 2.76 inches; Newburyport, 2.73 inches; Taunton, 2.33 inches; Wakefield, 2.10 inches; and Boston, 2.02 inches. Thunderstorms embedded in the general area of rain produced downpours which caused some minor brief street flooding and flooding of some low-lying areas. A tunnel was flooded on Storrow Drive in Boston hampering traffic in that area. There was considerable flooding in low-lying flood-prone areas of most of Bristol and Plymouth Counties. At 8:25 AM, a small stream in Bristol County in Collins Corner reportedly overflowed its banks. No significant damage was reported from the heavy rainfall, however.

Strong northeast winds affected most of east coastal Massachusetts, including Cape Cod and the Islands. Some peak wind gusts included: Chatham, 54 mph; Falmouth, 53 mph; Blue Hill in Milton, 50 mph; Nantucket, 46 mph; and Hyannis, 44 mph.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

MASSACHUSETTS, Central and East

MAZ005>007-013>014-016>022	Western Middlesex - Western Essex - Eastern Essex - Western Norfolk - Southeast Middlesex - Eastern Norfolk - Northern Bristol - Western Plymouth - Eastern Plymouth - Southern Bristol - Southern Plymouth - Barnstable								
	23	2300EST			0	0			Heavy Rain
	24	2300EST							
MAZ004>007-012>024	Northern Worcester - Western Middlesex - Western Essex - Eastern Essex - Southern Worcester - Western Norfolk - Southeast Middlesex - Suffolk - Eastern Norfolk - Northern Bristol - Western Plymouth - Eastern Plymouth - Southern Bristol - Southern Plymouth - Barnstable - Dukes - Nantucket								
	24	0000EST			0	1	20K		Strong Winds
	25	1200EST							
MAZ022>024	Barnstable - Dukes - Nantucket								
	24	0800EST 1100EST			0	0	50K		Coastal Flood
MAZ005-016-019	Western Middlesex - Eastern Norfolk - Eastern Plymouth								
	24	0830EST 0900EST			0	0			High Wind (G55)
Norfolk County Cohasset	24	1600EST 2330EST			0	0			Flood
Plymouth County Central Portion	24	1700EST 2330EST			0	0			Flood
Middlesex County Winchester to Wayland	24	1800EST 2330EST			0	0			Flood

The second powerful nor'easter to affect the region in less than a week brought a deluge of rain to southeastern Massachusetts, gale force winds along the coast, and coastal flooding to Chatham on Cape Cod and to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. An extremely intense low pressure system moving to the northeast and passing just to the southeast of Nantucket had a central barometric pressure just under 29 inches of mercury.

Maximum rainfall totals for this storm exceeded 4 inches in Plymouth County along a north-south axis extending from Plymouth on the south end to Hingham and Hull on the north end. At least 3 inches fell across southern Bristol County, almost all of Plymouth County, and in southeast Norfolk County just to the south of Boston. Two inches or more fell across Essex County, eastern Middlesex County, and across all of southeastern Massachusetts, including all of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. Plymouth had 4.26" and Hingham had 4.03". At Hingham, 3.81" fell in just 24 hours and, for the second time within a week, established a new maximum 24-hour rainfall amount for the month of February.

The James Brook, a small stream in Cohasset (Norfolk County) jumped out of its banks flooding Ripley Road, which was closed by the local police. A spotter reported that a small stream had gone over its banks in Plymouth County as well. In Middlesex County, beginning around 6 PM on the 24th, the Aberjona River in Winchester went out of its banks, flooding a ball field near a school. This flooding continued through about 1130 PM. Meanwhile, also in Middlesex County, around 11 PM, the Sudbury River in Wayland briefly went out of its banks. There were numerous reports of flooded basements throughout Plymouth and southern Bristol Counties.

High winds were reported at several locations. Some peak gusts in the category of high winds included: Blue Hill Observatory, Milton, 63 mph; Hull, 61 mph; Wayland, 59 mph; and Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard, 58 mph. Strong winds gusted to 40 to 47 mph at many locations, including 47 mph at Nantucket and 46 mph at Boston. In Boston, one person was slightly injured when winds blew down a plaster canopy at the World Trade Center. Inland, gusts of 47 mph occurred at Framingham and 45 mph at Littleton. Farther inland, strong winds were felt in Worcester County, where some tree limbs were blown down causing scattered power outages. A large tree limb fell on a house in Leicester.

Coastal flooding occurred on Martha's Vineyard where Beach Road was closed from Edgartown to Oak Bluffs. Waves were reported splashing over the top of houses in the Eastville section of Oak Bluffs. Beach erosion occurred on Nantucket, where there was a loss of about 20 feet of dunes on the east side of the Island. Up to 12 to 15 feet was lost along Sconset Bluff. There were a few reports of coastal flooding at Chatham on Cape Cod. Dozens of basements were flooded and coastal roads had to be closed as the aftermath of the heavy rain and a high tide overwhelmed drainage systems in the Sand Hills section of Scituate on February 25th, a day after the storm.



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NEW HAMPSHIRE, Southern

NHZ012	Hillsborough	25	1000EST 1210EST	0	0	Strong Winds
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Strong northwest winds in the wake of a departing low pressure system that passed southeast of Cape Cod occurred across much of southern New Hampshire. Wind gusts to 50 mph were reported at Nashua.

RHODE ISLAND

RIZ002>007	Southeast Providence - Western Kent - Eastern Kent - Bristol - Washington - Newport	04 05	2300EST 1800EST	0	0	Strong Winds
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RIZ006>007	Washington - Newport	05	0600EST 1200EST	0	0	High Wind (G55)
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A strong storm system passing offshore to the southeast of Cape Cod caused strong northeast winds across central and southern Rhode Island and high winds along south coastal sections, including Block Island. Large breaking waves caused minor coastal flooding and minor beach erosion. Some peak wind gusts included: Little Compton, 63 mph; Block Island, 60 mph; and Providence, 48 mph. Sustained winds reached 45 mph at Point Judith.

RIZ002>007	Southeast Providence - Western Kent - Eastern Kent - Bristol - Washington - Newport	18	0000EST 1200EST	0	0	Heavy Rain
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RIZ006>007	Washington - Newport	18	0000EST 1200EST	0	0	Strong Winds
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Newport County Little Compton	18	0530EST	0	0	8K	Lightning
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Newport County Middletown	18	0820EST	0	0	Flood
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Washington County Southeast Portion	18	1400EST	0	0	400K	Flash Flood
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A strong low pressure system that moved to the northeast along the Mid Atlantic coast and then passed southeast of Cape Cod brought heavy rainfall, isolated flash floods, and thunderstorms to mainly central and southern Rhode Island. Strong northeast winds gusting to 30 to 40 mph occurred across the south portion of Narragansett Bay and along the south coast from Little Compton to Westerly. Rainfall totals for this storm were in the range from 2.0 to 3.5 inches during a 12-hour period. Some totals (not necessarily complete storm totals) included: Tiverton, 3.4 inches; Middletown, 3.1 inches; Newport, 2.98 inches; North Kingstown, 2.7 inches; Ashaway, 2.58 inches; and T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, 2.16 inches.

In Middletown, the Maidford River rose out of its banks flooding a part of a neighborhood. In South Kingstown, California Jim's Pond Dam broke damaging a portion of Route 108 as well as several homes in the Peace Dale section of town. Damage was \$400,000; \$325,000 for the dam and \$75,000 in payouts to local residents, according to town officials.

In Little Compton, a lightning bolt struck in the center of town resulting in an estimated 5 to 10 thousand dollars damage to a house. In Tiverton, fire crews pumped out many basements. There were reports of minor street flooding in Middletown and Newport. There was considerable flooding in poor drainage areas in southeast Rhode Island



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RHODE ISLAND

RIZ001>005-007

Northwest Providence - Southeast Providence - Western Kent - Eastern Kent - Bristol - Newport

23 2300EST
24 2300EST

0 0

Heavy Rain

RIZ001>007

Northwest Providence - Southeast Providence - Western Kent - Eastern Kent - Bristol - Washington - Newport

24 0000EST
25 1500EST

0 0

Strong Winds

The second powerful nor'easter to affect the region in less than a week brought heavy rainfall and strong northeast winds to much of Rhode Island. An extremely intense low pressure system moving to the northeast and passing just to the southeast of Nantucket had a central barometric pressure just under 29 inches of mercury. Rainfall totals for this storm exceeded 2 inches over the eastern and northern part of the state. A total of 2.03 inches was reported from Foster while 2.00 fell in Coventry. Strong northeast winds gusted to 40 to 56 mph across the state. Some peak gusts included: Providence, 56 mph; Charlestown and Tiverton, 52 mph; and Newport and North Smithfield, 47 mph.